comfort. But there may have been method in Jesus's madness in calling Levi. One of the things that united all Jews beyond the exclusive barriers created by the various factions was the necessity of paying the poll-tax levied specifically on Jews by the Romans in A.D. 6. If you were embarking on a mission to the Chosen People in a racially-mixed cosmopolitan area, who better to choose than someone who knew intimately who it was that continued to claim allegiance to Yahweh despite the real, financial cost? The "children" needed to be contacted first with an invitation to enter the Kingdom before the mission was extended to "house-pets" (see B9.3). Levi may have been a key agent in this mission. Perhaps there is some connection with this possibility and the ancient tradition that Levi was in fact Matthew, and the author of the most "Jewish" of the four Gospels.

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